

# Lie Test Used On Defense, CIA Officials

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High officials of the Pentagon, CIA and State Department were subjected to lie detector tests during a 1971 White House investigation of news leaks on U.S.-Soviet arms limitation talks, a senior government official disclosed yesterday.

The attitude of the White House at the time was described as "almost paranoid."

This was during the period that the Nixon administration ordered wiretaps on the phones of National Security Council staff members and newspaper reporters, measures which are now being investigated by acting FBI Director William D. Ruckelshaus.

It has previously been acknowledged by Secretary of State William P. Rogers that a few — perhaps "three or four" — State Department officials were given polygraph tests in the fall of 1971.

But the pervasiveness of

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the polygraph testing of senior government officials had not been hinted at in the earlier disclosure.

The White House investigation, it was authoritatively reported, was tightly centralized in the White House and bypassed the normal security operations of the agencies most directly concerned with the leaks.

The newspaper stories that triggered the extraordinary White House measures, according to the sources, dealt with U.S. missile capabilities and the American nuclear first-strike capability.

It was in the context of this "tremendous concern" in the White House, these sources noted, that the CIA acquiesced in White House demands that it provide technical assistance to

Watergate conspirators E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy during 1971.

White House pressure on the CIA to become implicated in the national security investigation and, later, the Watergate cover-up, is the subject of four separate congressional investigations.

CIA witnesses, including former director Richard M. Helms and his successor, James R. Schlesinger, have told various congressional committees that the White House requests were made with a clear suggestion of presidential sanction.

Top presidential aides H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and former White House counsel John W. Dean III, were all named as having demanded the agency's participation in the successive security and cover-up operations.

By statutory charter the agency is proscribed from carrying out domestic surveillance, police and internal security functions.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) said yesterday that the congressional inquiries into CIA involvement in Watergate will precipitate a constitutional confrontation between the White House and Congress on the issue of executive privilege.

"It's headed for a showdown," Jackson said in an interview with the United Press International. The crunch will probably come, he predicted, with the expected refusal by Ehrlichman and Haldeman to testify before the congressional committees of inquiry. In that event the courts would have to rule on contempt citations for the former White House aides.

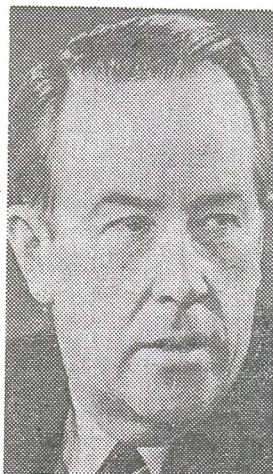
Jackson is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which is conducting one of the Capitol Hill inquiries. Separate investigations are in progress in the Senate Appropriations and Foreign Relations Committees and a House subcommittee on intelligence operations.

Only the Senate Joint CIA Oversight Committee, which was specifically charged with reviewing CIA operations, has not gotten into the act. It has been dormant, without having met for more than 15 months.

It has been in its comatose state since the Senate agreed to add Foreign Rela-

tions Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), a frequent critic of agency operations, as an ex-officio member.

Nor is the special Watergate investigating committee of Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) looking into the CIA-Watergate ties at this point. Ervin's current position is that the subject is



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... sees showdown

not central to the Watergate investigation.

On balance, however, congressional scrutiny of the CIA has suddenly gone from famine to feast, a situation probably unprecedented in the 26-year history of relations between the agency and Congress.

Helms goes before what promises to be a grueling session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Monday, where he will be questioned closely on discrepancies between his testimony earlier this year and surfaced in the past week.

Several members of the committee are known to be deeply angered at Helms' prior disclaimers of agency involvement with Hunt, Liddy and the Watergate case. There has been talk within the committee of transmitting the earlier Helms testimony to the Justice Department for possible action.

Questions about the CIA's implication in Watergate and other domestic operations were raised at Helms' nomination hearing early this year and two subsequent Foreign Relations Committee sessions on Feb. 7 and March 5, both closed proceedings.

Several committee members feel that Helms was less than truthful in his answers—or at best that he was responding to the committee on the narrowest grounds of technical truth (the spy paraphernalia was for the Ellsberg break-in and Helms apparently did not accede to the massive White House pressures to become implicated in the Watergate cover-up, and said nothing of either episode) to speak of the massive White House pressures on himself and subordinates to become implicated in the case.

Some members of the committee are of a mind to censure Helms. Others with closer ties to the intelligence establishment, such as Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), are more sympathetic.

One of the innumerable CIA colleagues of Helms put the dilemma of the former CIA director in this manner:

"Dick was under no moral compulsion to conceal the White House involvement because of any special relationship with the President. He was summoned to Camp David to see the President last December and fired without advance notice. The President patted him on the back and said, in effect, 'You did a great job but I don't want you around any more.'

"It all becomes a private judgment on how one behaves. I don't see how someone who has lived in the discipline of the government for nearly 40 years can change overnight."